

From: ["Bryan, David" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DE67FD66319E475AA76B7FB0C64D64B5-BRYAN.DAVID>](mailto:Bryan.David@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DE67FD66319E475AA76B7FB0C64D64B5-BRYAN.DAVID)
To: ["R7 Senior" <Staff>](#)
CC:
Date: 3/28/2013 6:46:09 AM
Subject: Associated Press - Koster files suit over Missouri landfill concerns

Koster files suit over Missouri landfill concerns

3/27/13 • Associated Press

http://www.stltoday.com/news/state-and-regional/missouri/koster-files-suit-over-landfill-concerns/article_0cc03af7-82c0-52c1-ae07-3de997cf0ee1.html

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster filed a lawsuit Wednesday against the operators of a St. Louis County landfill where a two-year underground fire is emitting a foul smell, alleging violations of state environmental laws.

The smell coming from Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill, near Lambert Airport, has drawn complaints from nearby homeowners, businesses, hospitals and senior care centers. The suit against Republic Services Inc. asks that the company bear the costs of cleanup, remediation and monitoring, which Koster estimated could exceed \$10 million.

The fire has been burning deep below the ground for at least two years, expanding at a rate of about 2 feet per month for most of that time, Koster said. But in January, the fire began expanding at 25 feet per month.

Residents have described the smell as horrific, even debilitating. Some worry about the health consequences. Missouri Department of Natural Resources director Sara Parker Pauley sent a letter to the attorney general's office on Thursday seeking legal action.

"There's no doubt the situation up there is disturbing and terrible," Koster said at a news conference in St. Louis. "And anybody living around that site has a right to complain."

The landfill said in a statement that it is already working with Koster "as we share the same goal _ to dramatically reduce the odor from the landfill while protecting nearby residents and employees, and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations."

The landfill's website says that 40 wells will be added by April 15. The wells remove odor-causing gas, which is then taken to a processing facility to be destroyed. After that, a cap will be installed over the troubled area of the landfill.

The lawsuit cites additional concerns beyond the fire and smell. It claims that hazardous waste is flowing from the landfill into a nearby stream. The suit claims that since January the landfill has generated about 150,000 gallons of the waste, liquid landfill leachate, each day.

The lawsuit also alleges that DNR air monitoring shows the landfill is emitting levels of acetaldehyde and benzene that exceed federal standards, posing a potential threat to health and the environment.

Koster said Republic has already spent \$65 million trying to solve the problem. Landfill spokeswoman Anne Marie Moy declined comment.

The 52-acre landfill is not taking new waste. World War II-era radioactive waste is also stored there, but Koster said it is not believed to be endangered by the fire.